Prices of Rationed items at par with open market prices

137. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in some parts of the country open market prices of rationed items are at par with PDS prices;

(b) whether any survey has been done in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Price of commodities in the open market are determined by the forces of demand and supply and would vary from time to time; whereas the price at which the commodities are supplied through the Public Distribution System (PDS) are in the nature of administered prices and are held constant for longer periods of time. It is possible that in some areas where the production of rice and wheat are surplus, the open market prices are at par or even marginally less than the end retail prices of rice and wheat through the PDS, in the first few months following the harvest.

(b) and (c) Central Government monitors the retail prices of a number of essential commodities in 18 centres throughout the country on a daily basis, based on reports from the State Governments. As per information received, only in the case of wheat, the open market prices were observed to be at par or marginally less than PDS and retail prices in a few centres such as Lucknow, Bhopal, Jaipur etc., during May/June, 1995.

Employment of Women through Employment Exchanges

138. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether educated unemployed women are getting adequate number of jobs through Employment Exchanges and are being recruited as apprentices;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) what was the State-wise number of educated unemployed women registered with the Employment Exchanges till June, 1995; and

(e) what steps are being taken by Government to provide adequate number of jobs to women through Employment Exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a), (b), (c) and (e) Employment Exchanges function under the administrative control of the State Governments/Union Territories administrations. As per the instructions contained in the National Employment Service Manual submission of women applicants is not confined to vacancies specifically notified for them. Women are to be considered for all vacancies for which they are eligible. Central Government is not aware of any violation of this instruction. To safeguard the interest of women job-seekers, all the State Governments have been advised to consider appointment of Lady Officers in Employment Exchanges as appropriate.

No separate data are maintained as regards apprentices recruited through Employment Exchanges.

(d) State-wise number of educated (Matric & above) women job-seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the live register of Employment Exchanges as on 31-12-1992 (latest available) is furnished in the statement enclosed.